



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

Issue 673

23 May 2008

www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

HeadLines

Our students never cease to amaze me. Several encounters with and reports about our youngsters have struck me recently. Let me share a selection with you.

The other Saturday, I was soaking up the sun and ambience on the South Bank. My sister and I had just enjoyed a performance by Venessa Redgrave in 'The Year of Magical Thinking' at the National Theatre and in walking past the street musicians, sad sculptors and mime artists littering the 'promenade', we came across Max Taylor and Jess Miller from Year 12 who were on the way to see 'Cabaret'. A more charming conversation about theatre and culture could not have ensued on that balmy evening. My sister was duly impressed by the intellectual, articulate students of Hemel Hempstead School.

I receive many letters every day. Some complain; others inform; and a few celebrate and remark upon what is good and true about our students. A recent letter drew my attention to the Basketball tournament at Hatfield University where Dacorum District Under 12s won. Apart from the fabulous display by the team, which included four of our Year 7s, the letter pointed out that the highest level of sportsmanship was seen. Moreover, Year 11 student Michael McLaughlin coached and selected the team. 'He was a natural coach, leading the boys at a level they really related toother parents from other districts commented on how good he was'. What a brilliant endorsement of our students; excellent.

Hannah Freeman from Year 11 took part at the highest level in an international Gymnastics competition in Beijing. She came twelfth out of nearly sixty in the floor exercises. What a magnificent achievement; to have been invited to represent Great Britain and to have done so well at such a young age whilst in the midst of GCSE examinations.

Max, Jess, Michael, Hannah and so many more students show us the best of the HHS spirit and character. In the Year 11 final assembly last week, students paid touching tribute and tutors gave moving speeches about each other. The affection and warmth was palpable. I hear about other schools not having final events for Year 11s and sending them home early because they are 'trouble'. Ours are a delight. As a recent candidate for a teaching post noted when asked about outstanding features of the school, 'Your students are better than any I have ever met before. They are a credit to you.' I agree!

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

ADVERTISEMENT

Part Time Receptionist, H1 (£7.22 per hour)
Monday to Friday 12.45 to 4.45 pm, term time only

We are looking for someone with excellent communication skills who can create a welcoming environment in our busy reception area, manage a small switchboard, welcome and book in visitors, supervise our student receptionist and undertake some basic administrative tasks. Computer literacy is essential.

Further details are available on our website at www.hemelhempsteadschool.co.uk. Please apply in writing via letter of application and Hertfordshire Support Staff Application and Person Specification forms (available on our website) to Mrs S Cooper, PA to the Headteacher, The Hemel Hempstead School, Heath Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TX. Tel: 01442 390100. Fax: 01442 233706. E-mail: admin@hhs.herts.sch.uk

Closing date: 6th June 2008

The Hemel Hempstead School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Sickness/absence line

Please will all parents contact us daily if your child is sick, going to be late in due to a medical appointment, or is absent for any other reason. Please call our sickness/absence line on 01442 390103 by 9am if possible.

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For the Young Writers' Publication: Danielle Lewis 8A, Ben Catt 8N.

For Excellent Work in History: Eleanor Ward 7P, Mary Pattinson 7P, Charlotte Keene 7P, Rory Tinker 7P.

For Excellent Coaching: Michael McLaughlin 11N.

For Sportsmanship: Kieran Cavanagh 7P, Elliot Beardsworth 7A, Tim Wright 7F, Ryan Barnett 7C.

For Excellent Work in English: Charlotte Blair-Smith 8C, Louise Donovan 8N.

Parental Forum

The next Parental Forum will take place on **Wednesday 11th June (6.30pm)** in the Library. Our forums meet on a half termly basis and are open to all parents. At our last forum, we discussed a range of issues regarding communication with parents and the input from those who attended the meeting has proved extremely valuable in our planning for next year. I will give some feedback on this at the June forum. The focus for our next meeting is **homework**. If you have views on this subject which you would like to share with us, you are most welcome to attend. I would be very grateful if you could contact my PA, Mrs Coe, to indicate your interest in attending. If you would like to propose a topic for future meetings, please contact us in the same way. I look forward to seeing you at the forum.

Mr Jordan, Deputy Headteacher



arts colleges

Library Notices

Due to the installation of a new Library Computer system we will be unable to lend any books between Thursday 22 May and Tuesday 10 June. Although this sounds a long time it does encompass half-term and is, in reality, only nine days. We will still be able to accept returned books and books will still be available for use within the Library for most of this period.

The Library will be closed on Thursday 5 June and Friday 6 June while the new system is being installed. We will also be closed on Monday 9 June and Tuesday 10 June to accommodate an English masterclass activity. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. *Ellen Krajewski, Librarian*

English Revision Guides

The English Department now has four revision guides for sale covering most aspects of the English Language and Literature examinations. Prices start at 20p and rise to 60p depending on the size of booklet. Interested students should talk to their English teacher or Mrs Evans for more details.

Mrs Evans, English Department

Special Offer for Year 11 Prom

Toni&Guy Hairdressing in the Marlowes are offering our students 20% off cuts and blowdries for the Year 11 Prom. If you are planning to make an appointment, please collect a coupon from Student Services and telephone Toni&Guy on 01442 233300 or 07980 723212. There are a limited number of coupons available, so don't delay in collecting yours!

Canteen Notice

With effect from Monday 2nd June, Breakfast Club will no longer be available. Breakfast Club will re-launch in September.

Smartcards will continue to be topped up at morning break and lunchtimes. *Mrs Hoare, Asst Catering Mgr*

Tesco Computers For Schools Vouchers

Thank you for your help in collecting and donating Tesco vouchers to our school. The most recent voucher scheme has now ended. If you have any further vouchers, we would be grateful if you would send them in to school as soon as possible. *IT Department*

Gold Letters issued recently:

- Letter 163** Year 7 WRL/Enterprise Week
- Letter 164** Year 7 Work Shadowing
- Letter 172** Year 10 Art Trip
- Letter 173** Year 10 Extra Curricular Art Trip
- Letter 175** Year 9 Triple Science Course
- Letter 176** Year 9 Functional Skills Exams 2008
- Letter 177** Years 10 Geography Fieldtrip (September)
- Letter 178** Changes to Mathematics Teaching – Summer Term

Have you lost a treasured photo?

We have found a photo (a small, family group on a beach) amongst some donated supermarket vouchers. If you have mislaid such a photo from your purse or wallet, please contact Reception and we will be very happy to return it to you.

Sport

FIXTURES

Tues 3rd Jun Yrs 7+8 Rounders @ Kings Langley

Weds 4th Jun Yrs 8+10 County League Athletics Match 5 @ Jarman Park

RESULTS

English Schools Athletics – First Round County Section @ Jarman Park Fri 16th May

Yr 8 Boys 350 pts – 3rd

Yr 8 Girls 246 pts – 6th

Yr 10 Boys 297 pts – 7th

Yr 10 Girls 155 pts – 8th

A full breakdown of results from the day can be found at: <http://www.esaa.net>

Cricket Yr 9 District Cup v JFK lost by 10 runs

SPORTS NEWS

Yr 8 Rounders Mini League

Well done to all the girls who took part. There were some particularly strong performances on the evening, including some excellent fielding from Charlotte, excellent bowling from Blair and a well taken catch from Lauren Dempsey. All the girls batted well with some fantastic rounders by Rebecca Walshe and Lydia Carroll-Aylett. Well done!

Miss Fraser

PTA News

Summer Fair - 14 June 2008

You should have received Raffle Tickets by now – please buy them and send money with the stubs to Student Services in a sealed envelope. The first prize is £100 cash.

We have only received one bid for the Watford Football Club signed pennant. If you would like to be the proud owner, please send in a written bid as soon as possible.

We still need cakes donated for our cake stall – if you are willing to make one for us, please bring it in on the day.

Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHSA (01442 393266 or mobile 07749 727350) Email s.stallworthy@sky.com

Dates for Your Diary



Blue Week

2nd – 6th Jun Yrs 7, 8, 9 and 10 School Exams

4th Jun 'It Snows' Drama production at Hampstead Theatre

5th Jun Yr 11 Drama Trip to 'Woman in Black'

6th Jun Yr 12 Art Trip to Tate Modern

Gold Week

9th & 10th Jun English Dept. Gifted and Talented Msterclass

11th Jun Yr 10 Science Modules

12th Jun eSafety Parents' Information Evening (limited space, letter to follow)

13th Jun FUN RUN

13th–16th Jun Yr 10 D of E Bronze Expedition

* Practical examinations may take place outside of this date range

Summer Term Calendar amendment:

The House Music Festival has moved to Monday 30th June. Year 10 Prizegiving has moved to Friday 4th July.



